

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of pending claims is presented as a courtesy to the Examiner:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled).

29 (Previously Presented). A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus comprising:

first means for detecting at least solid object information ahead of an own vehicle;

second means for estimating a travel path of the own vehicle;

third means for recognizing a preceding vehicle traveling in front of the travel path of the own vehicle based on the solid object information;

fourth means for judging whether there is any forward traveling object, which travels in the same direction as the own vehicle, other than the preceding vehicle based on the solid object information;

fifth means for setting a parameter in response to both a lengthwise and a widthwise distance of the preceding vehicle from the own vehicle;

sixth means for adjusting the parameter in a case where any forward traveling object other than the preceding vehicle has been judged;

seventh means for judging whether the adjusted parameter is larger than a threshold value; and

eighth means for judging that the preceding vehicle is not traveling in front of the travel path of the own vehicle in a case where the adjusted parameter is larger than the threshold value and outputting a signal.

30 (Previously Presented). The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the parameter is cleared when the lengthwise distance is farther than a preestablished distance.

31 (Previously Presented). The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the parameter is set to increase when the preceding vehicle is in a region comprising an area of a predetermined width and length around the travel path of the own vehicle.

32 (Previously Presented). The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the parameter is set to increase as the preceding vehicle approaches the own vehicle region.

33 (Previously Presented). A travel control system for controlling the travel of an own vehicle at least based on the output signal from the vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus described in claim 29.